

**JUSTICE STUDIES CENTER OF THE AMERICAS**  
**THIRD QUARTER REPORT**  
**July-September 2003**

The following report provides a summary of the activities of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas for the period corresponding to July to September 2003.

**ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS**

**A. JSCA's Institutional Development**

**a) Administration Area**

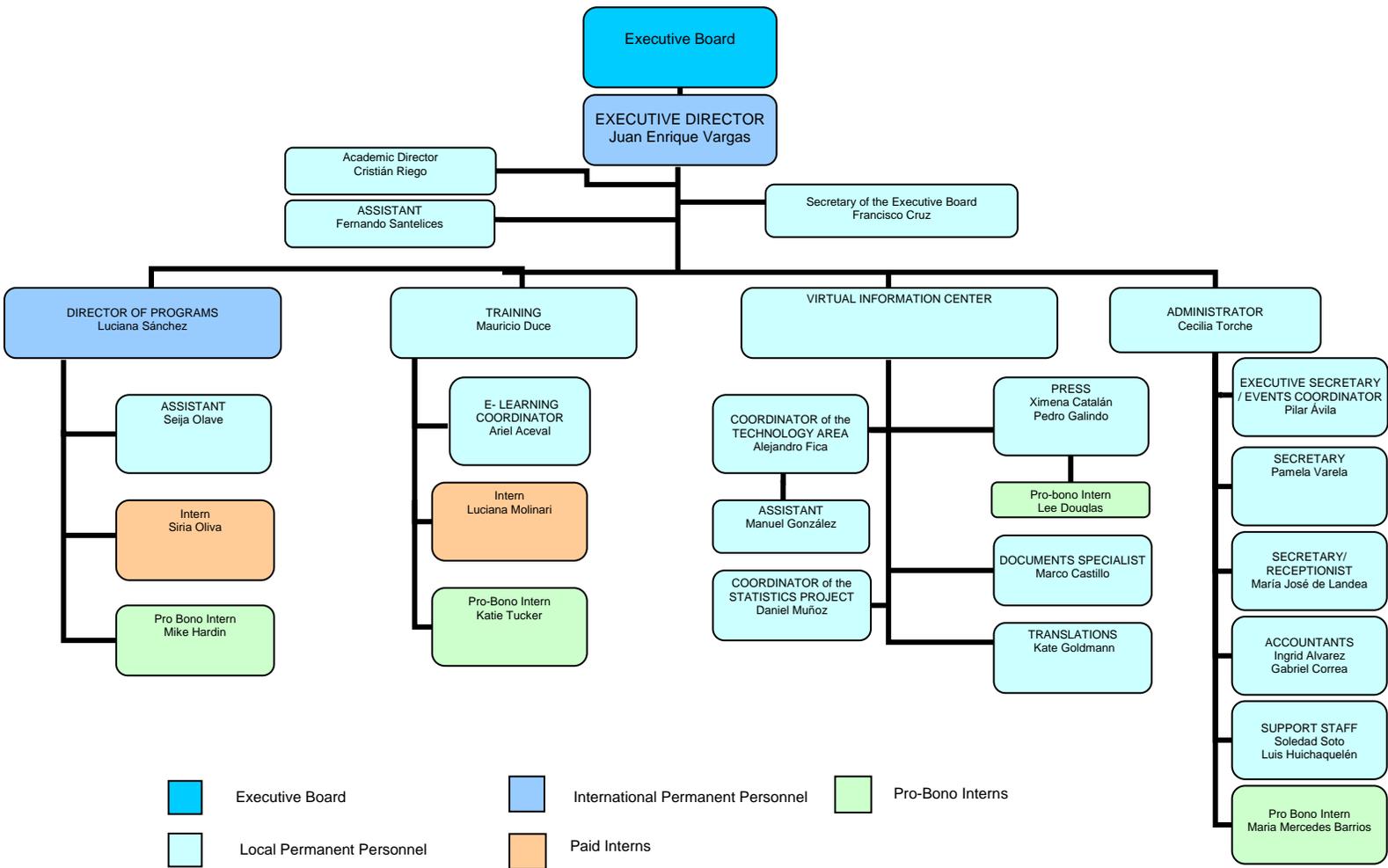
**1) Personnel Changes.**

The following is a list of the changes in JSCA personnel during this quarter. These changes were implemented in order to carry out various activities, primarily in JSCA's Training Area.

- **Training Area:**
  - Mauricio Duce has replaced Inés Marensi as Training Coordinator.
  - Ariel Aceval has joined our team as E-learning Coordinator.
  
- **Virtual Information Center:**
  - Manuel González has joined JSCA's team as assistant for computer services.
  - Daniel M. Giménez signed on as Coordinator of the Judicial Statistics Project Coordinator.

Executive Board secretary Fernando Cruz reduced the amount of hours that he works.

The following is an updated version of JSCA's chronogram:



## 2) Funding and Expenditures

This section provides a description of the use of the funding received by the institutions that provide institutional support to the Justice Studies Center of the Americas in order to finance the activities carried out during the period corresponding to the months of July to September 2003.

The Center received USAID funding corresponding to September and October, and a reimbursement for expenditures for the period corresponding to April to August is currently being processed. JSCA also received funds from the following organizations:

-Ford Foundation support for the development of the book on Justice and Civil Society.

- Support from the Chilean government for institutional development.

-Funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) in order to initiate the Training Project and Gender and Diversity Studies,

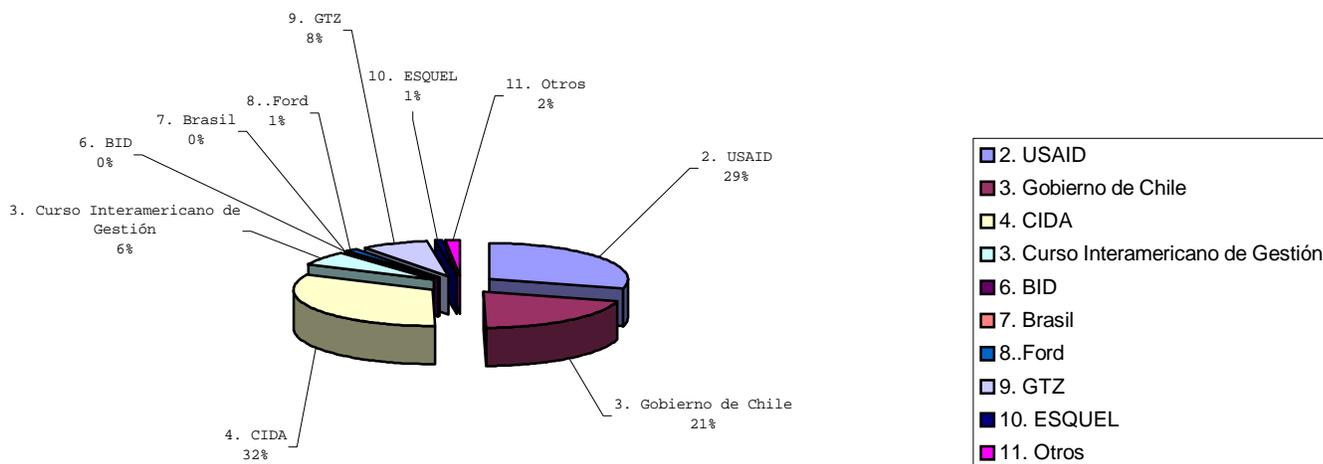
-GTZ funding to support the study of Women's Rights Tribunals and funding from Ecuador for the training course in Ecuador.

Reports on expenditures were submitted to various funding sources, including Hewlett, HSP, the Human Security Program, the IDB, the Ford Foundation, and USAID.

The following graphs reflect the information provided above:

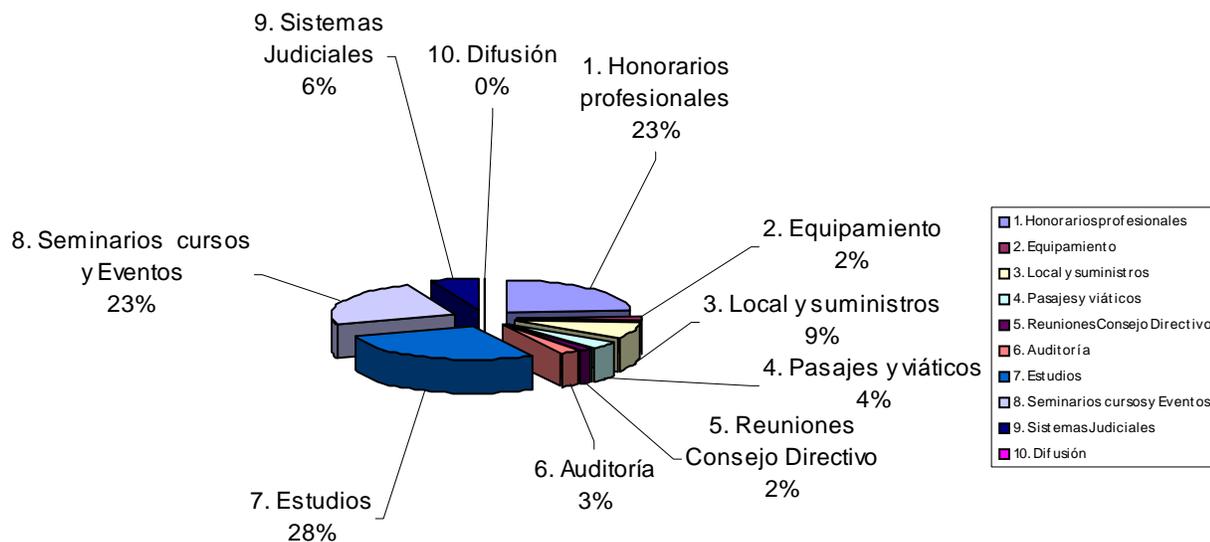
### PERCENTAGE OF SUPPORT RECEIVED BY SOURCE JULY- SEPTEMBER 2003

(2. USAID, 3. Government of Chile, 4. CIDA, 5. InterAmerican Management Course, 6. IDB, 7. Brazilian Government, 8. Ford Foundation, 9. GTZ, 10. Fundación Esquel, 11. Other)



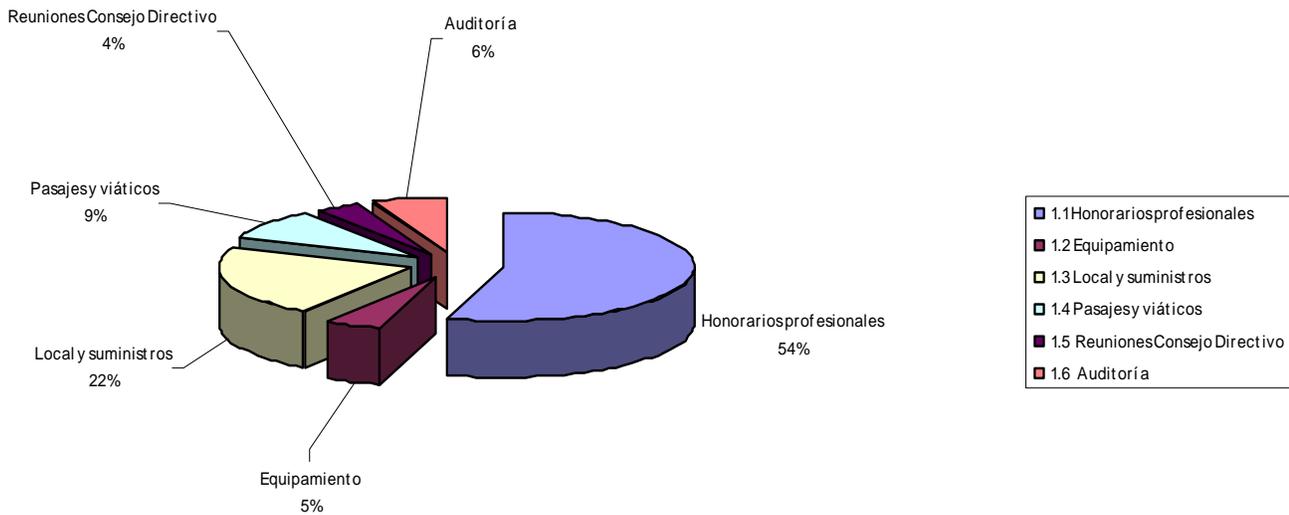
## EXPENDITURES July-September 2003

(1. Honoraria, 2. Equipment, 3. Overhead and Supplies, 4. Travel Expenses and Per diems, 5. Executive Board Meetings, 6. Auditing, 7. Research, 8. Seminars, Courses and Events, 9. *Sistemas Judiciales* journal, 10. Publications.)



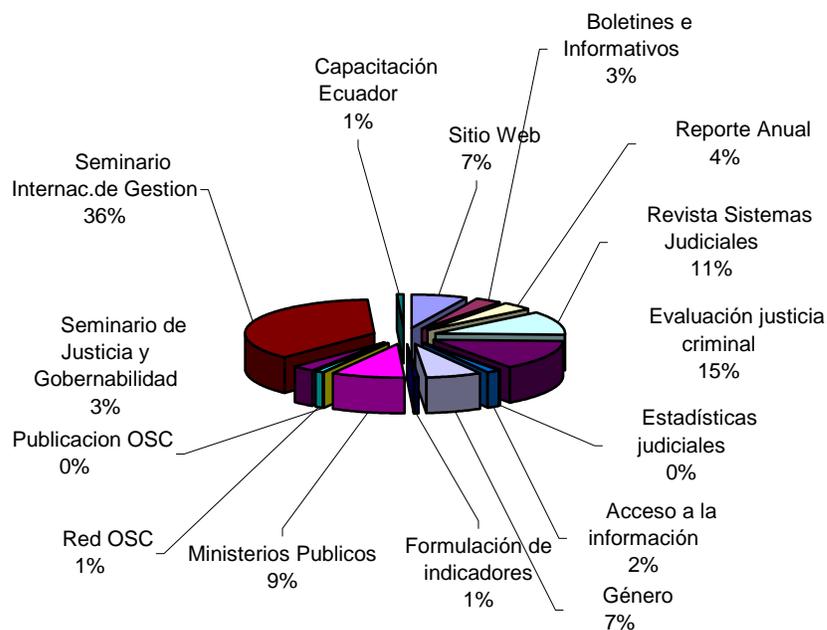
**DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES FOR OPERATING COSTS IN PERCENTAGES**  
**(Clockwise: Auditing, Honoraria, Equipment, Overhead and Supplies, Travel Expenses and**  
**Per diems, Executive Board Meetings)**

**DISTRIBUCION PORCENTUAL DEL GASTO DE FUNCIONAMIENTO**



## DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENDITURES ON ACTIVITIES IN PERCENTAGES

(Clockwise: Website, Newsletters and Press Releases, Annual Report, *Sistemas Judiciales* journal, Evaluation of the Criminal Justice System, Judicial Statistics, Access to Information, Gender, Formulation of Indicators, Public Prosecutor's Offices, Red OSC, OSC Publication, Seminar on Justice and Democratic Governance, International Seminar on Judicial Management, Training in Ecuador.)



### 3) Database of Institutional Contacts.

JSCA has created a database containing a total of 4,150 contacts. 141 new contacts were added to the database during this quarter. The following graph presents the total number of contacts in the Americas as of September 30.

#### Contacts in the Americas as of September 30.

Region or Country	Number	%
Southern Cone	1308	36.91
Andean Region	405	11.43
Brazil	127	3.58
Haiti	21	0.59
English-speaking Caribbean	68	1.92
North America, Central America, Dominican Republic	1615	45.57

3544

## B. ACTIVITIES AIMED AT MEETING JSCA'S INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

JSCA is currently developing activities aimed at meeting its institutional objectives in countries throughout the Americas. The following is a list of the countries in which we are executing our most important projects. Details about the projects and activities are presented later in this report.

#### Countries in which JSCA is Carrying Out Research or Training Activities this Quarter:

COUNTRY	STUDY
Argentina	Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, Judicial Statistics, Access to Information, CSO Network, Jurisprudence on the Rights of the Child
Barbados	Research on Criminal Procedure
Belize	Judicial Statistics
Bolivia	Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, CSO Network
Brazil	Racial Discrimination and Judicial Administration, CSO Network, Jurisprudence on the Rights of the Child, Seminar on Court Management
Eastern Caribbean	Judicial Statistics, Research on Criminal Procedure
Colombia	Racial Discrimination and Judicial Administration, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
Costa Rica	Judicial Statistics
Chile	Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, Gender and Criminal Procedure, Judicial Statistics, Jurisprudence on the Rights of the Child, Access to Information, CSO Network
Dominican Republic	Racial Discrimination and Judicial Administration, CSO Network

Ecuador	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, Training for Judicial Operators, CSO Network
El Salvador	Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
Guatemala	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms, Judicial Statistics, CSO Network
Haiti	CSO Network
Honduras	Gender and Criminal Procedure, Follow-up on Criminal Procedure Reforms
Jamaica	Research on Criminal Procedure
Mexico	Training for Judicial Operators, CSO Network, support for criminal procedure reform
Panama	CSO Network
Paraguay	CSO Network
Peru	Training for Judicial Operators, Access to Information, CSO Network, Support for Criminal Procedure Reform
Trinidad and Tobago	Research on Criminal Procedure
United States	CSO Network, Jurisprudence on the Rights of the Child
Uruguay	Jurisprudence on the Rights of the Child
Venezuela	CSO Network

## **1. To generate and disseminate instruments that improve the information available on justice in the Americas**

### **1.1 Virtual Information Center (VIC)**

The VIC saw a great deal of growth this quarter in terms of technological and human resources, as well as changes that made possible the technical transformations that were needed in order to move forward in the development of new Web pages.

In terms of hardware and software resources, we purchased new computers this quarter in order to provide all new personnel with the tools that they need to carry out their work, installed a Web server, and added a firewall designed to provide greater security for access to and from the Internet.

These changes led to others, including an improvement in the quality of the server that contains accounting information, the installation of a system that allows users to access that information over the Internet, the installation of a development server (tests), and the adaptation of new technologies to the daily needs of computer users, as is the case with Windows XP.

#### **a) Website**

New software was created in order to strengthen the Intranet, which is used to upload information to the JSCA Website. The Website was updated with new information as part of an ongoing project in this area.

A Content Administrator was recently created for the Events Section, which will allow JSCA to update, file and disseminate its events on an ongoing basis. This tool was used as part of the publicity for the II INTER-AMERICAN SEMINAR ON JUDICIAL MANAGEMENT and the INTER-AMERICAN SEMINAR ON GENDER AND JUSTICE, which were planned for San José, Costa Rica in September and Viña del Mar, Chile in November.

***Flow of Visitors***

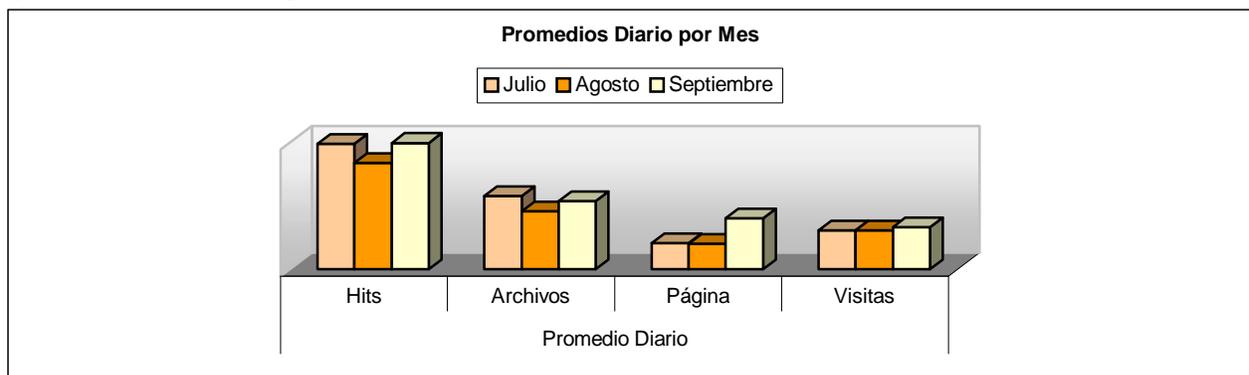
JSCA registered at total of **28,660** external visits to its Website this quarter, with an average of **311** sessions per day, which represents a **12%** increase with respect to the previous quarter. Some information that may be of interest includes:

- 245,484 pages on our Website were visited this quarter, with an average of 2,668 pages visited per day by external users, a 55% increase as compared to last quarter.
- The largest number of users is from the United States, mainly in the area of education.
- The most visited areas on the site this quarter were Events, Agreements and Legislation, and the Nexus Newsletter.
- The Website registered external traffic representing 11,325 MB this quarter (14% more than last quarter). This means that external users downloaded more than 14,000 documents from the Website (taking an average of 800 KB per text in the area of legislation or country report from a study).

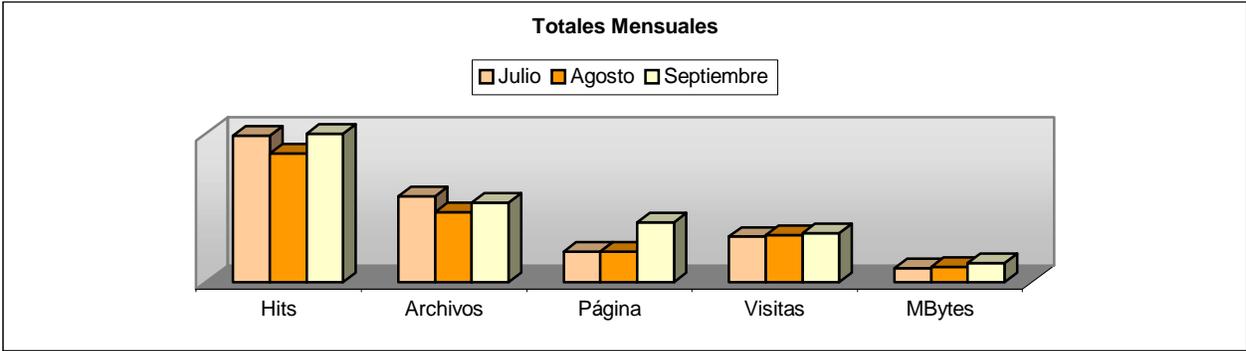
Flow of Visitors for this Quarter:

*Daily Average by Month (July, August, and September)*

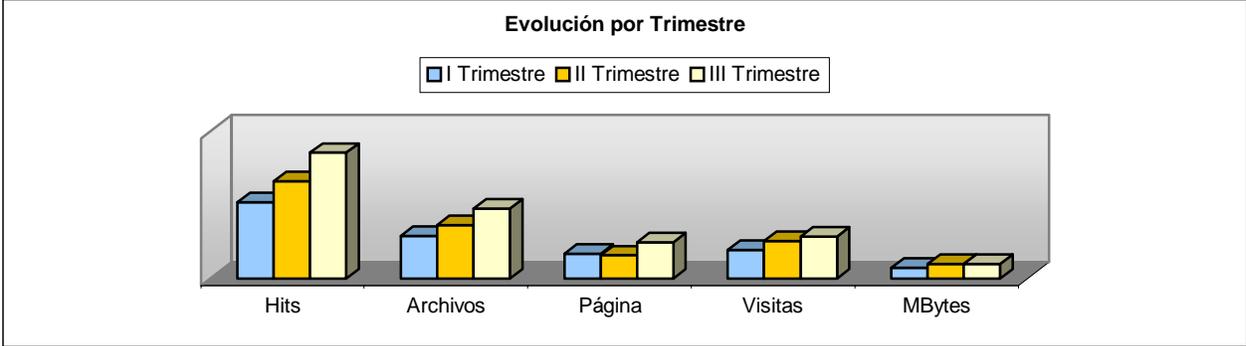
by Hits, Files, Web Pages and Visits



*Monthly Totals (July, August, September)*  
by Hits, Files, Web Pages, Visits, and MBytes



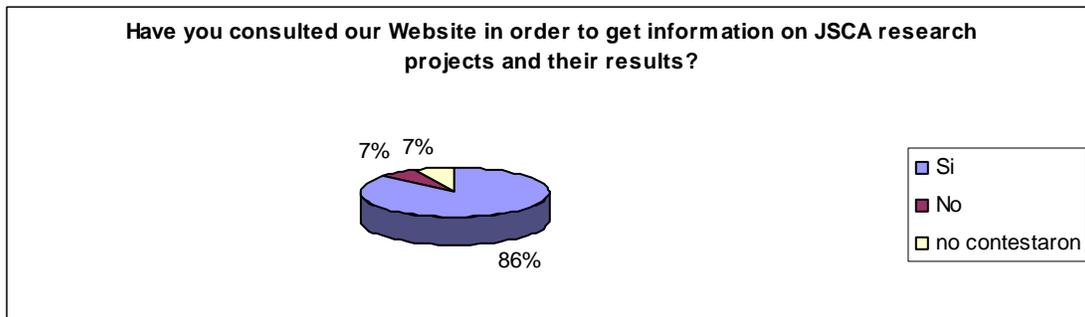
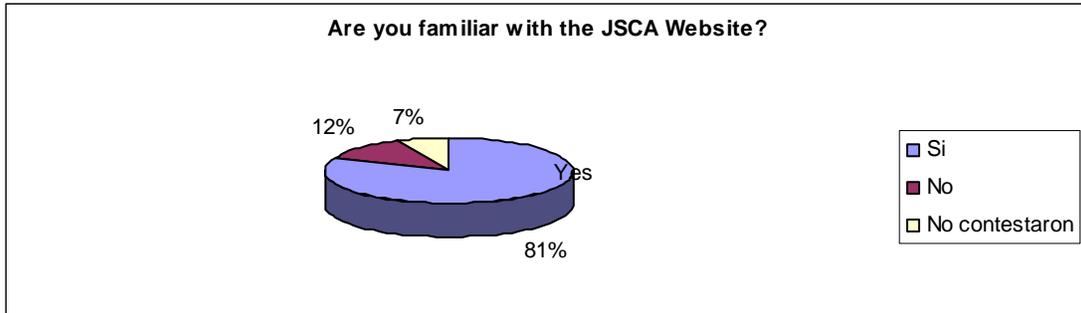
*Evolution by Quarter*  
(I, II, and III Quarters of 2003)  
by Hits, Files, Web pages, Visits, and MBytes



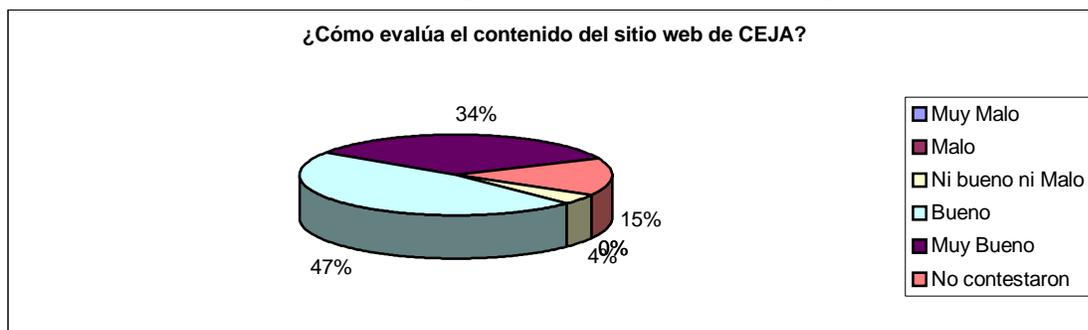
### ***Results of the Survey on Virtual Communication Products***

The survey designed last quarter was published on the Website and sent to the contacts in our database via fax and e-mail. The following graphics summarize the analysis of the survey results:

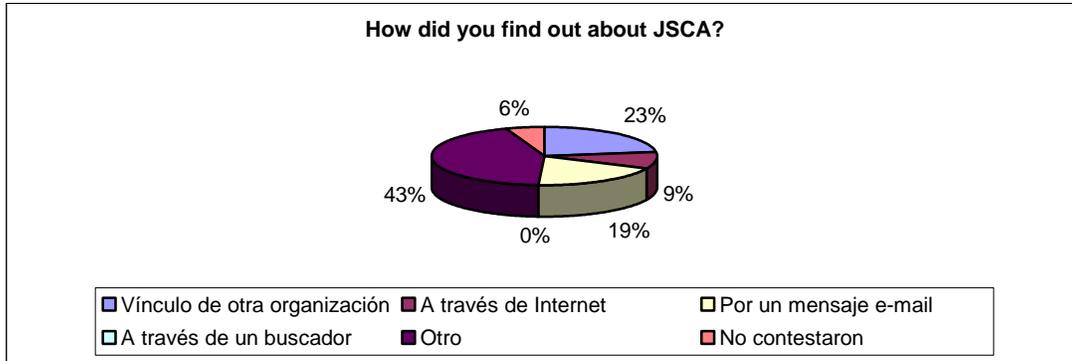
Each chart is divided into three possible responses to the questions identified in the title. The purple portion corresponds to the percentage of people who said “Yes,” the maroon section corresponds to the percentage of people who said “No,” and the yellow section corresponds to the percentage of people who failed to respond to the question.



The portions of the following chart are divided as follows: Blue/ Very Bad, Pink/Bad, Yellow/Neither Good Nor Bad, Light Blue/Good, Maroon/Very Good, Salmon/No Response.

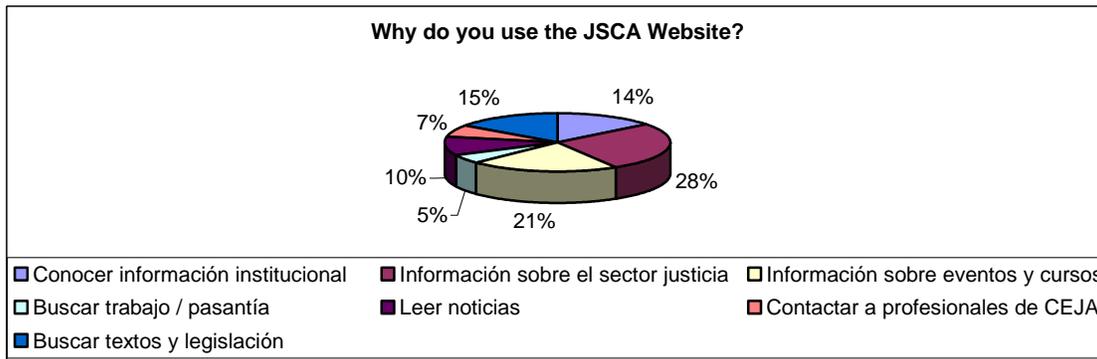


The three responses represented in the graphs above that should be highlighted are the high number of positive evaluations of the **Knowledge** and **Use** of the Website and the **Content** of the JSCA Website.



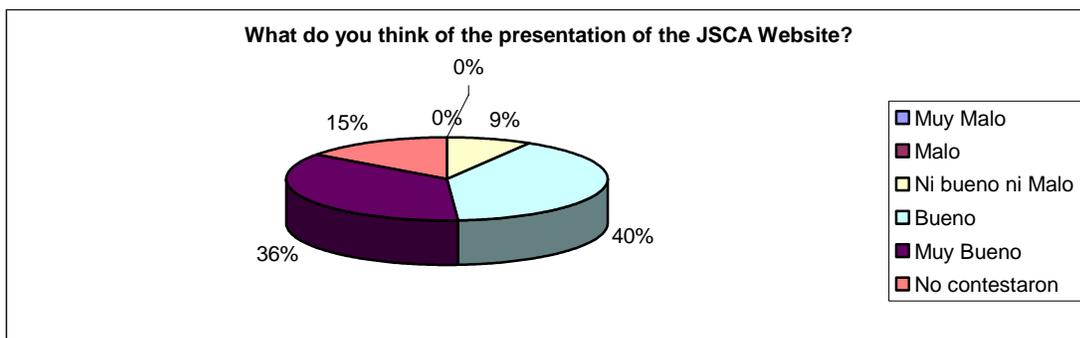
(23% Link from another organization's Website, 9% through the internet, 19% through an email, 0% other, 43% through the Internet, 0% through a search engine.)

The fact that none of the respondents learned about our institution through a search engine on the Internet is of interest because JSCA is registered with the most popular Internet search engines (Yahoo, Google, etc.).



(14% to access institutional information, 28% to get information on the justice sector, 21% to get information on events and courses, 5% to look for a job or internship, 10% to read the news, 7% to contact JSCA staff members, 15% to look for texts and legislation.)

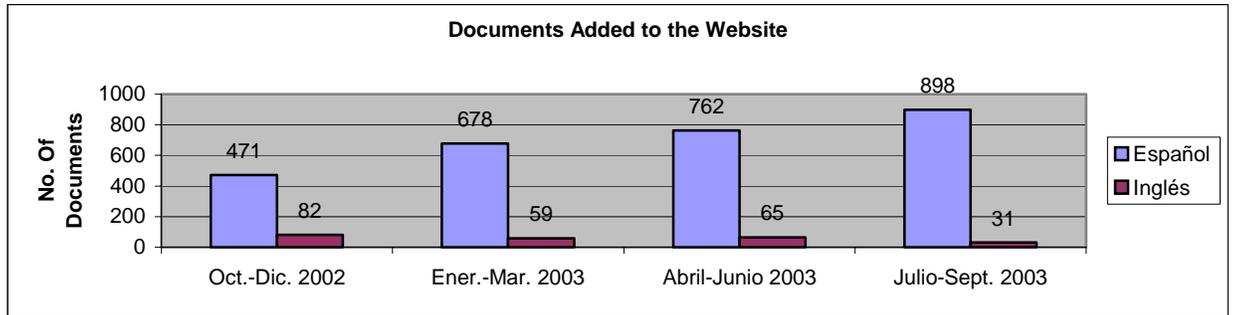
Above and beyond the fact that the Website is generally used to obtain information on the justice sector and find out about events, this graph reveals that the use of the rest of the information is consulted in a very similar manner.



(0% Very Bad, 0% Bad, 9% No Opinion, 40% Good, 36% Very Good, 15% No Response)

## ***New Information on the Website***

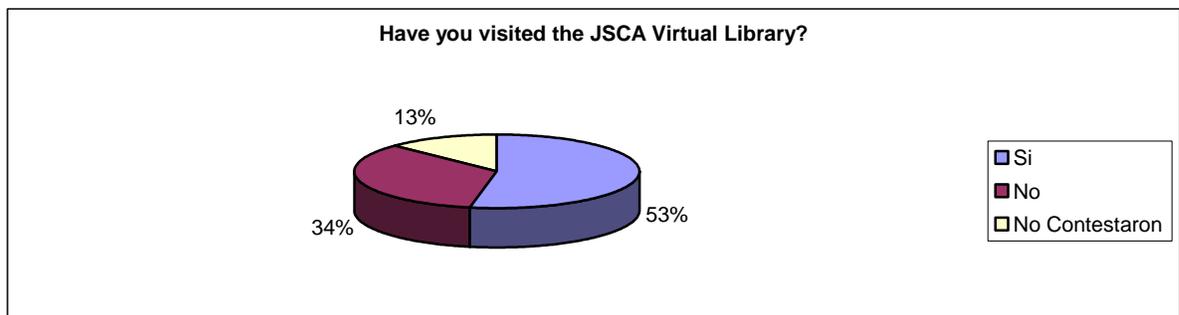
- **Virtual Library:** The on-line collection continued to grow this quarter with the addition of a variety of on-line documents, legislation, summaries, bibliographic references, and new JSCA products such as the Report on the State of Justice in the Americas (Spanish language version). By the end of the quarter the library contained 581 documents, studies, reports, and articles; 348 legislative documents, and 153 book reviews. 3716 key words were assigned in order to classify the documents in Spanish and English and to facilitate searches on the Website.



(From left to right: October-December 2003, January-March 2003, April-June 2003, July-September 2003. The purple columns correspond to the number of documents in Spanish and the maroon columns to the number of documents in English.)

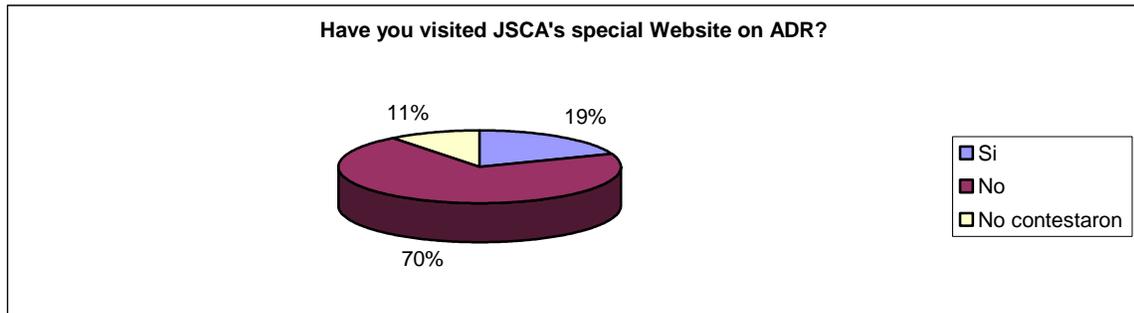
There has been a steady increase of documents in Spanish over the last three quarters, but the introduction of English-language documents has decreased, due to a large extent to the Virtual Library's contacts and the fact that the people who contribute the most documents are from Spanish-speaking countries. An effort will be made to remedy this situation during the next quarter by requesting that JSCA contacts in English-speaking countries submit documents.

The survey carried out at the end of this quarter revealed that 53% of respondents had consulted the JSCA Virtual Library as compared to 34% that had not done so. However, only 26% found it easy to locate information in that section. We are currently analyzing options for creating a search engine for the JSCA Virtual Library according to the characteristics of its data base.



(The purple portion of the graph corresponds to the number of respondents who said Yes, the maroon portion to the number of respondents who said No, and the yellow portion to the number of respondents who failed to answer this question.)

**- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR):** Questionnaires were sent to 370 JSCA contacts who work on ADR in September 2003 in order to update and expand the JSCA Registry of ADR Centers. The ADR Website contains 50 legislative documents that regulate ADRs, which are organized by country, 111 studies of ADRs, and 56 Links to institutions that offer mediation and conciliation services. The following graph shows that there was no substantial increase during the 2nd and 3rd quarters in terms of updating the ADR Center registry because the questionnaires were not sent out until September 2003.

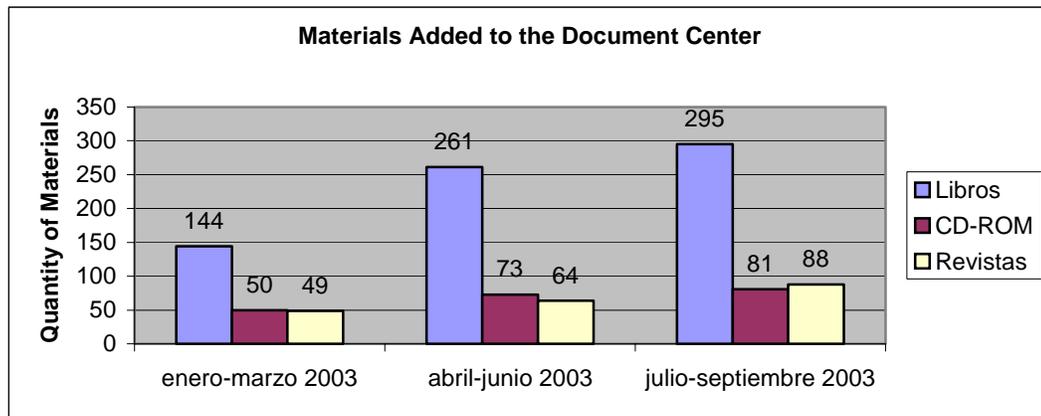


(The purple portion of the graph corresponds to the number of respondents who said Yes, the maroon portion to the number of respondents who said No, and the yellow portion to the number of respondents who failed to answer this question.)

The on-line survey carried out last quarter revealed that 70% of those surveyed had not visited the ADR Website. We hope to change this situation by updating the Website with information supplied by JSCA contacts and creating a banner for the ADR Website in order to encourage users to visit it or contact JSCA in order to exchange information on the topic.

***Other Activities:***

**- JSCA Document Center (located at our headquarters):** As of the end of this trimester, the Document Center contained 398 volumes (295 books, 81 CD-ROMs, and 88 periodicals).



(From left to right: January-March 2003, April-June 2003, and July-September 2003. The purple column corresponds to the number of books, the maroon column indicates the number of CD-ROMs, and the yellow column shows the number of journals contained in the JSCA Document Center.)

- **International Conference on Library Science:** The JSCA proposal to present a paper at the X International Conference on Library Science, which is to be held in Santiago de Chile October 29-31, was accepted in August. The paper, which is entitled “Justice Studies Center of the Americas: An Interdisciplinary Project on Judicial Information on the Internet,” will be presented by JSCA’s Librarian and Document Specialist, Marco Castillo.

- **Global Legal Information Network (GLIN):** GLIN is an initiative that focuses on gathering legislation from original sources in different countries and making them available on the Internet for contributors and associated members. This initiative is coordinated by the U.S. Library of Congress. The efforts to establish links between JSCA and the U.S. Library of Congress continued during September, but no progress was made in that area. We hope to learn more about the Law Library of Congress’s position towards a possible relationship between JSCA and that institution during the month of October.

## **1.2 Press Coverage**

JSCA Press is in contact with the local Chilean and international press through news correspondents. Contact is made through press releases that are sent out before, during and after each JSCA event. In addition, we carry out an in-depth follow-up process, contacting each journalist and explaining the purpose of each activity.

In terms of its external audience, JSCA has a database of approximately 4,000 people.

### ***Other Activities and Interviews***

Several interviews and articles were published in the press this quarter on both local (Chile, JSCA headquarters) and international topics. Some of the interviews focused on the criminal procedure reform or judicial branch in Chile, where the opinions of JSCA experts have been required (see appendix).

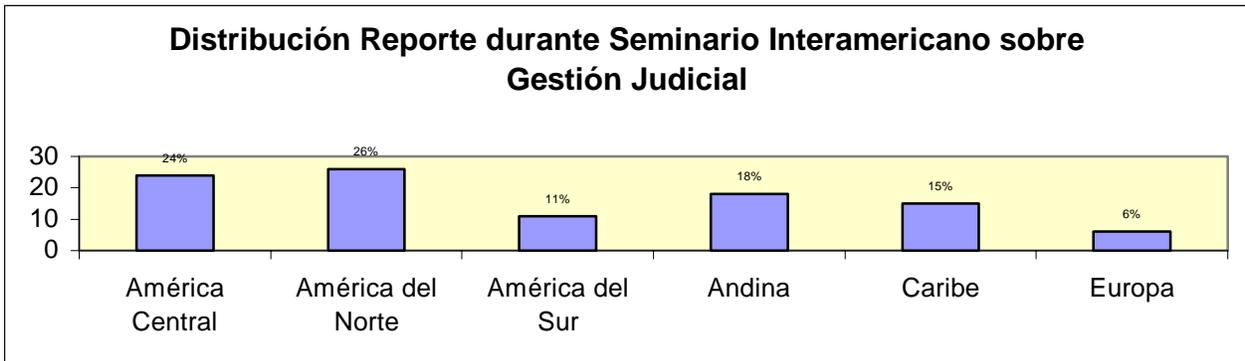
### ***Mention or Citation of JSCA Events***

- During the seminar “Justice Reform: A Requirement for Democracy, A Social Demand,” which was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, July 20-23, JSCA was cited in the inauguration speech presented by magistrate Enrique Marín Vélez, the President of Colombia’s Superior Judiciary Council. He stated that “one of the most outstanding characteristics of justice systems is, as the Justice Studies Center of the Americas puts it, the darkness in which they operate.”
- The editorial published on July 31 in Chile’s most widely-read newspaper, *El Mercurio*, included a reference to JSCA and the opinions expressed by its Executive Director in particular.
- The General National Prosecutor of Colombia sent JSCA a letter on August 4 2003 in which he expressed gratitude on the part of his institution to the commission that wrote the new criminal procedure, which is moving towards an accusatory tendency. He also stated that he would continue to depend on JSCA’s support for this “most important challenge of endowing the country with a modern, agile, efficient justice system that is respectful of the rights of unions and victims.”

- The Supreme Court of Costa Rica has shown interest in posting the Report on the State of Justice in the Americas on its Website in its entirety. A link to the Report, which is posted on JSCA's Website, is currently posted on that country's judicial branch Website. The Report was presented at the Second Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management, which was organized by JSCA and held in Costa Rica on September 25 and 26 2003.
- Other institutions have reprinted, cited or linked JSCA events, news and publications or documents, including: [www.alertanet.org](http://www.alertanet.org), [www.inecip.org](http://www.inecip.org); [www.redinter.org](http://www.redinter.org); [www.projusticia.org.pe](http://www.projusticia.org.pe); [www.reformajudicial.jus.gov.ar](http://www.reformajudicial.jus.gov.ar);

### 1.3 Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas

- The first edition of the *Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas 2002-2003* was published in Spanish (see below for a discussion of its contents).
- A workshop was held in July in Santiago de Chile in order to discuss and validate the information gathered, particularly in terms of the studies and public opinion surveys on the functioning of justice. Members of the Editorial Committee of the *Judicial System* journal attended the workshop (see *infra*). A preliminary version of the country reports was submitted to experts in each country in order to include their observations.



Distribution of the Report during the InterAmerican Seminar on Judicial Management (from left to right: Central America, North America, South America, Andean Region, the Caribbean, Europe.)

- One Master Copy and 1,000 copies of the Spanish version of the Report were published on CD-ROM so as to be distributed to key individuals and institutions linked to the region's justice sector.
- A Website featuring the contents of the Report was created (<http://www.cejamericas.org/reporte>). This tool will be updated and improved in order to facilitate access to the information and allow for its content to be updated periodically.

The Report was officially presented at two regional events:

On September 23 at the Institute for Judicial Research at the *Universidad Autónoma de México* (Mexico City), at an event that featured a discussion of the scope of the information presented. JSCA's Executive Director, who presented the Report, was interviewed by the Mexican newspaper *El Universal*. (See appendix.)

On September 25 in San José, Costa Rica during the Second Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management, and copies were distributed to seminar participants.

- Work began on the English translation of the Report. Given the high volume of information gathered (see *infra*), the translation will be posted section by section on the JSCA Website and in other products that will be defined as the work progresses.

### ***Content of the Report***

The final version of the Report is over 700 pages long, and includes:

- 1) 34 country studies of the internal functioning of the judicial system, corresponding to each of the countries who are active Organization of American States member states.
- 2) A special chapter that presents the results of recent public opinion studies and risk ratings on topics related to the functioning of justice on a regional level.

Each country report features:

- A brief socio-demographic profile of the country and summary on the judicial system
- A description of the key institutions in the sector (judicial branch, ministry of justice, public prosecutor's office, public defender's office, etc.)
- A description of the main civil and criminal procedures
- Basic statistics on the judicial budget, case flow, duration of procedures, number of judicial sector personnel (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, police officers, and attorneys in private practice), crime rates, and prison population.
- Use of alternative dispute resolution methods
- Principle judicial reform initiatives
- Reviews of institutional Websites and a list of key contacts
- Bibliographic references and key sources of information on the judicial sector

The information contained in the special chapter reviews a group of external research projects produced by international organizations and private agencies on different topics related to the

functioning of justice in the countries. All of the information gathered for this project is presented in descriptive, non-evaluative terms, so that it can be published and analyzed *ex post*.

### ***Preliminary Results***

- The *Report* project allowed us to create a basic fact sheet for systematic and continuous information gathering on the functioning of national justice systems in the region.
- The project allowed us to collect a significant amount of information on national justice systems in 34 OAS member states. There are some problems with the information and variations in quality, but this endeavor represents an unprecedented experience in the region that fills a void and contributes to information needs for decision-making and improving public policy in the area of justice.
- The project also allowed us to present the results of the most important studies, international evaluations, public opinion polls, and risk ratings on aspects of the justice sector for countries throughout the Americas, in a single document that represents a period that spans from 1996 to 2003.

### ***Impact***

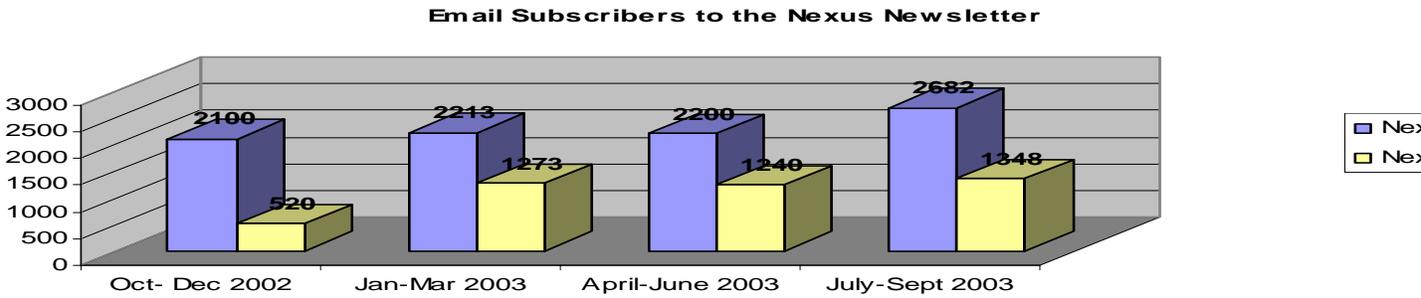
The information compiled through this project and presented to JSCA authorities through regional forums and interviews with the media have had an impact in the following areas:

- The *Report* has created interest in generating and collecting information on the justice sector in various countries on the part of various organizations and private institutions (specific initiatives have been launched in Argentina, Mexico, Panama, and Peru).
- The *Report* is already allowing for comparisons among different countries in spite of the limitations of the information gathered.

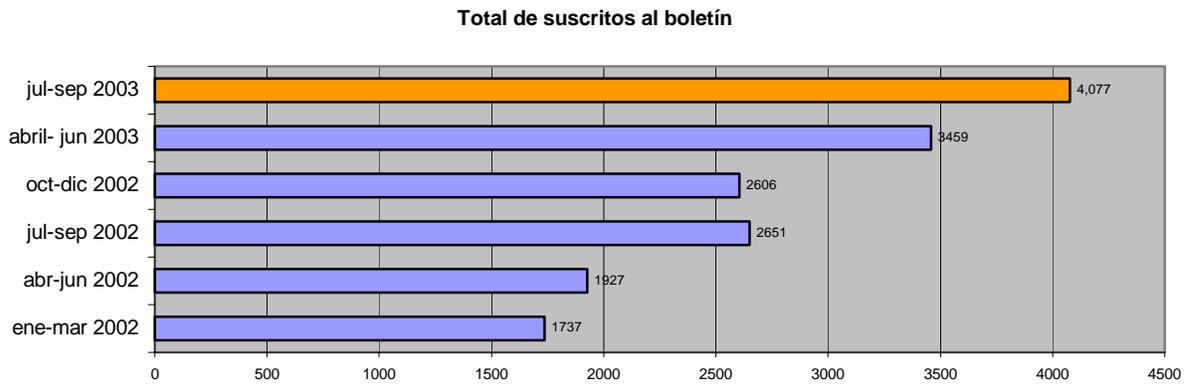
A specific example of the project's impact is the recent discussions that took place in Chile on increasing the judicial branch budget. The information compiled in the *Report* and presented to JSCA authorities in forums and interviews with the media has allowed for the inclusion of comparative information on judicial branch budgets in the region in public debates. In the case of Chile, this has allowed for the demands presented by the judicial branch to incorporate the opinions of civil society, where the specific information presented by JSCA has been cited frequently and at a high level.

### **1.4 Nexus Newsletter**

Numbers 25, 26, and 27 of the newsletter were published in English and Spanish for the months of July, August, and September. This space has been used to post short messages in order to publicize and/or publish announcements, job opportunities, and other information. Banners with links to a variety of pages have also been incorporated. The newsletter currently has 4,077 subscribers, which represents an 18% increase compared to last quarter. The greatest increase is observed in the number of email subscribers in Spanish, which represents an increase of 21%, while the number of English subscribers increased by 12%.



(The purple columns show the number of subscribers who read the publication in Spanish and the yellow columns indicate the number of subscribers who read it in English.)



(Total number of subscribers for each quarter in 2002 and the first two quarters of 2003.)

The following special reports were published as independent sections in the newsletter:

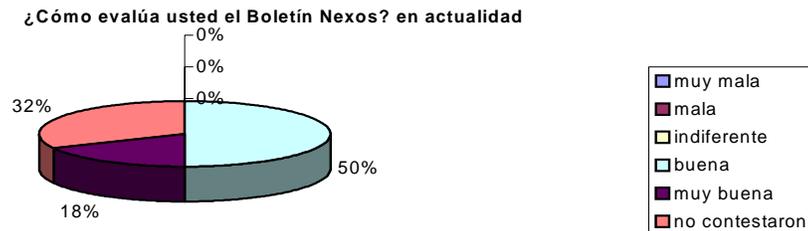
- ✓ Gender and Justice in Latin America
- ✓ Brazil: Citizens Involved in the Dispute over their own Rights

The JSCA survey, which was distributed to Internet users, evaluated visitors' perception of the Nexus Newsletter:

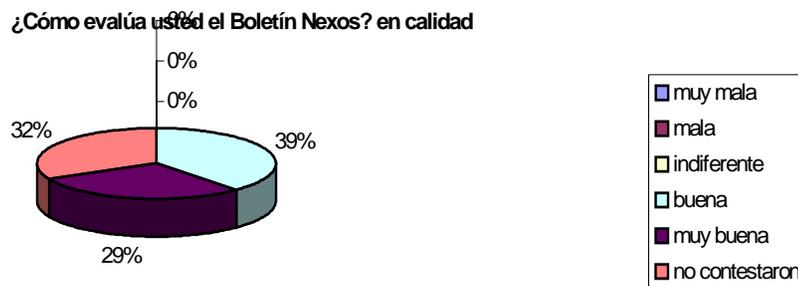
- Of the total number of respondents, 48% received the Nexus Newsletter each month via email. 45% did not subscribe to the publication, but did read it on the Website or receive it indirectly (through forums or listservs). Only 7% of those surveyed did not respond to this question, which may indicate that they are not familiar with the newsletter or do not receive it.

Are you a subscriber to the Newsletter?

(The purple portion of the chart corresponds to responses of Yes, the orange portion to responses of No, and the yellow portion indicates the percentage of respondents who did not answer this question.)



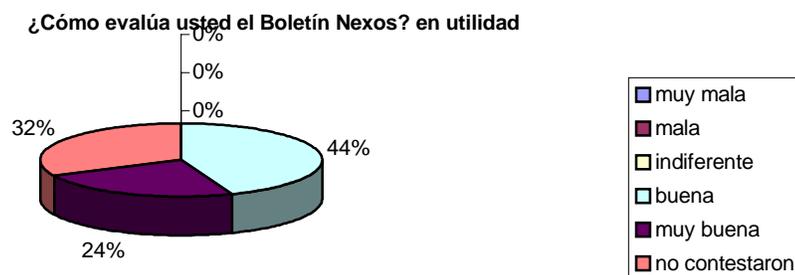
50% of those surveyed responded that the news presented in the Nexus Newsletter was GOOD, and 18% that it was VERY GOOD, which means that 68% have a positive opinion and feel that such news is pertinent to developments in the region.



39% evaluated the newsletter's quality as GOOD and 29% as VERY GOOD, which means that 68% have a positive opinion of the quality of the publication.



Finally, in regard to the usefulness of the Nexus Newsletter, 44% evaluated it as GOOD, and



24% as VERY GOOD. Again, a total of 68% of those surveyed put the monthly publication in the positive range. Coincidentally, 32% of those surveyed did not respond to this question or the questions listed above, which is once again attributed to a lack of familiarity with the publication.

## **1.5 Judicial Systems Journal**

During this quarter the publication of journal issue 5 was completed. The main topic of the issue was Judicial Management and Court Administration, and it included some of the papers presented at the First Inter-American Seminar “Experiences Reforming Judicial Management: Projects and Results,” which JSCA organized in August 2002, as well as a set of unpublished articles by experts from important institutions in this area, including the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) of the United States and *Fundación Paz Ciudadana* in Chile.

Issue 5 of the journal and the Report on the State of Justice in the Americas (Spanish version) were presented in September at a special event held at the Universidad Autónoma de México.

Progress has been made in preparations for No. 6, which will be presented in December. The main topic will be justice and information systems. We currently have 70% of the articles that will be included in the issue.

We are currently designing a strategy for inserting the journal into the publishing market in various countries in the region.

### ***Editorial Committee***

The second annual meeting of the journal’s editorial committee was held July 11 at JSCA headquarters in Santiago de Chile. The meeting was attended by:

- Christina Biebesheimer, U.S., justice expert for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Rafael Blanco, Chile, researcher at the Universidad Alberto Hurtado
- Carlos Cordovéz, Ecuador, State, Government and Civil Society Division specialist, IDB
- Alfredo Fuentes, Colombia, Dean of the Universidad de los Andes Law School
- Linn Hammergren, U.S., Senior specialist on the public sector for the World Bank Latin American Region Department
- Luis Paulino Mora, Cost Rica, Supreme Court Chief Justice
- Luis Pásara, Peru, research professor at the Judicial Studies Division of the *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas* (CIDE) in Mexico City
- Carlos Peña, Chile, Dean of the Universidad Diego Portales Law School
- Rogelio Pérez Perdomo, Venezuela, professor at the *Instituto de Estudios Superiores de Administración* (Caracas)
- Silvina Ramírez, Argentina, Executive Director of INECIP
- Cristián Riego, Chile, JSCA Academic Director
- Mónica Nágel, Costa Rica, former Minister of Justice and member of the JSCA Executive

The directors of the journal, JSCA Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas and Vice-president of INECIP Alberto Binder, also participated, as well as the journal's editor, Pedro Galindo, and other JSCA members.

A report on the situation of the Judicial Systems journal two years after its inception was presented, and the text that defines the journal's editorial policy was approved along with a style guide for authors. Strategies for increasing readership and attracting a more varied audience in the region were also discussed.

The committee arrived at agreements regarding various topics, including:

- a. Adequately publicizing the policy adopted on the intellectual property for the articles and their reproduction in electronic media. The policy establishes automatic authorization for reproducing or translating the articles completely or partially as long as the author and source are cited. It was also established that JSCA will post the articles on its Website one year after their original publication.
- b. Developing a policy for creating a stock of articles and incorporating new authors who will analyze interesting initiatives in line with the editorial policy.
- c. Ensuring the quality of the articles through a peer review process.
- d. Providing coverage of the following topics as the main topic for the next few issues:
  - i. **Attorneys:** training, market, ethical control, role played in judicial backlogs.
  - ii. **Judicial Government:** judicial councils, accountability, selection mechanisms, and performance evaluation for judges.
  - iii. **Justice and Business:** Commercial justice, impact of free trade agreements, justice and economic development.
  - iv. **Justice and Equity:** poverty and justice, access to justice, judicial rates, neighborhood tribunals, indigenous justice
  - v. **Constitutional Justice:** constitutional control, constitutional actions, institutionality, judges and public policy
  - vi. **Orality and the Formalization of Justice:** the role of the file, litigation, management problems.
- e. Continuing to enforce the policy of presenting the journal in the main forums and events that are held in the region.
- f. Evaluating the possibility of increasing the number of copies of the print edition that are published.
- g. Evaluating whether or not it is advisable to reduce the number of copies that are distributed free of charge.
- h. Establishing relationships with local institutions in order to insert the journal into the editorial market in various countries.

The Editorial Committee meeting was also used to hold a discussion of the content of the *Report on the State of Justice in the Americas*, particularly the information presented regarding surveys, reports from international organizations, and risk ratings on the functioning of the region's justice systems. The discussion will be published in Issue 6.

***Perception of the Journal Contents (Web version)***

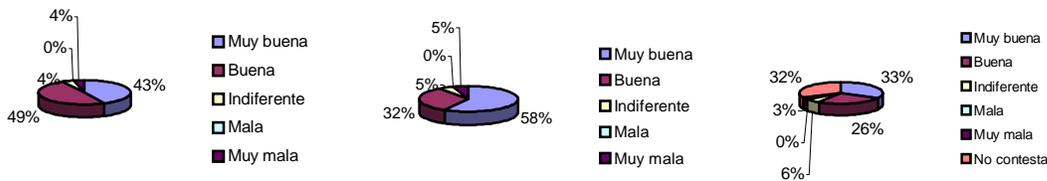
The survey that JSCA carried out included an evaluation of the Web version of the Judicial Systems journal.

- 30% of the respondents stated that they read the print version of the journal, and 20% stated that they read it online. 43% stated that they do not read it, and 7% did not respond to the question.

Of those who read the journal,

- 92% evaluated the quality of the journal in a positive manner: 49% rated it as “very good” and 43% rated it as “good”. 4% rated it as “very poor.”
- 90% stated that they have a positive opinion of the content of the journal in terms of its usefulness (58% rate it as “very good” and 32% as “good”).
- Over 50% of the respondents had a favorable opinion of the journal in terms of whether or not its contents are current (33% rate it as “very good” and 26% as “good”).

**Graph**  
**¿How to evaluate the support of the journal in terms of...?**  
**Quality                      Usefulness                      Updated Contents**  
(Purple: Very good, Maroon: Good, Yellow: Indifferent, Light Blue: Poor, Dark Purple: Very Poor)



## 1.6. Gathering and Disseminating Jurisprudence on Children’s Rights

Progress was made in the following areas: the project aimed at creating an up-to-date database of jurisprudence on children’s rights that is being promoted by UNICEF, Universidad Diego Portales (Chile), and JSCA:

- Information gathering activities were completed in Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, and the United States. The process has entered into its last phase in Brazil. It was decided that Costa Rica would be addressed during the next stage of the project given the problems encountered obtaining the information.
- The information gathered represents a total of 100 decisions regarding four specific issues related to children’s rights in the following areas:
  - Custody hearings

- ii. Protection of economic, social, and cultural rights
  - iii. Criminal guarantees
  - iv. Guarantee of due process
- The design of the Website on which the information will be presented has been completed. The site will contain the systematized jurisprudence, as well as a legislative appendix, specialized search engines, and an introduction to the topic.
  - We began the process of uploading the information onto the Website, which is hosted by the Universidad Diego Portales, and can be accessed by following links from the UNICEF and JSCA Websites. The site will be officially launched at the end of the year. The goal of this project is to constantly add information for new countries and topics.

## **1.7 Other Activities and Publications.**

### **Entre CEJA y CEJA**

An internal institutional newsletter called “Entre CEJA y CEJA” was launched on July 14. The purpose of the publication is to present news and important information on a weekly basis using a friendly format and colloquial language. JSCA staff can familiarize themselves with all of the activities organized by the institution, as well as colleague’s schedules, travel plans, publications, and presentations. The newsletter is published each Monday at mid day.

The principle reasoning behind the design and planning of this newsletter was to contribute to the flow of internal communication by producing a document with news from each member of our professional team, thereby increasing staff members’ personal identification with JSCA by stimulating work and helping to increase internal relationships in order to maintain a pleasant and balanced work environment. (A copy of a recent issue of “Entre CEJA y CEJA” is included.)

### **DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS**

- **Book and Off-print of *Justice and Civil Society***

During the presentation of the book *Justice and Civil Society*, which took place in July, a copy of the book and an off-print were given to each member of the audience, which was primarily made up of staff members of Chilean non-governmental organizations, which were the main participants in the book. A total of 80 copies were distributed free of charge at the event.

One hundred off-prints and six books were submitted to the nearly eighty organizations that participated in the “Conference on Creating a Justice Participation Network,” which was held in La Paz, Bolivia.

In addition, a copy of each publication was given to the finalists of the JSCA paid internship competition, which was a total of 18 people from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Spain, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, and Venezuela.

- **Bimonthly Distribution**

The bimonthly distribution for August and September consisted of sending a copy of No. 5 of the Judicial Systems journal to each member of JSCA's Executive Board, the members of the journal's editorial committee, and members of the CSO Network. A total of 79 journals, 10 CD-ROMs of the Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas, 1 copy of JSCA at a Glance, 1 book entitled *Evaluation of the Criminal Procedure Reform*, and 6 books and 6 off-prints of *Justice and Civil Society* were sent out.

### **1.7 Verification of Judicial Statistics and Indicators**

During this quarter we carried out various activities related to the project that is designed to continue the work of verifying judicial statistics and indicators, which was carried out with USAID funding and presented to the IDB. Daniel M. Giménez joined the project in September as coordinator. The process by which Mr. Giménez was hired for the position was an arduous one and was described in previous reports.

The most important activity associated with this project this quarter was the Second Inter-American Seminar on Judicial Management: Using Information to Govern the Judicial Branch, which was held in San José, Costa Rica on September 25 and 26. The event was sponsored by the IDB, USAID, and the Supreme Court of Costa Rica, and brought together nearly 150 people, including judicial authorities from countries throughout the Americas and from other regions. The countries represented include Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Uruguay, and Venezuela). Representatives from multilateral credit and international cooperation agencies were also in attendance, as were envoys from USAID offices in Mexico, Washington, and Peru. The topics addressed during the two-day event included Information and Judicial Government, which featured the presentation of the paper "Judges and Information," by Juan Enrique Vargas, Cristian Riego, and Alberto Binder, which was commented on by Supreme Court Chief Justices Luis Paulino Mora, of Costa Rica, Adán Arjona, of Panama, Adrian Saunders, President of the Institute of Judicial Education of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, and Miguel Pascual de Riquelme, Spokesman of the General Council of Spain's Judicial Branch. The panel on Specific Experiences with the Use of Information featured presentations by representatives from the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Guatemala, and a panel composed of Bill Davies, Minister of Brazil's Federal Supreme Court, and the Chief Magistrate of the Superior Court of the Mexican State of Tabasco. A workshop on the Construction of a Judicial Information System was held on the second day of the seminar and coordinated by Dr. Santos Pastor, who used the manual Coding and Decoding as a tool for facilitating the discussion. Many comments on the manual, which has been shown to be an effective and renowned tool by people in the justice sector, were recorded during the workshop. The seminar ended with a discussion of the topic "Technological Tools and Judicial Information," which included contributions from representatives from several companies, namely Orden, of Chile, Seintex, of Spain, and Electronic Interiors, of the U.S. Participants attended presentations of the work that has been carried out throughout the region, its impact on judicial management, and the difficulties encountered. A panel composed of Rafaela Herrera, from USAID, Sonia Navarro, of Costa Rica, Rosa Bendala, of Spain, and Geraldine St. Croix, of Saint Lucia presented the closing presentations.

The Report on Judicial Systems in the Americas was presented by Juan Enrique Vargas and No. 5 of the Judicial Systems journal was presented by Luis Paulino Mora.

The following activities can be highlighted as indicators of the impact of the event in the context of the judicial statistics project:

- An agreement was made with Argenjus, of Argentina, and the Ministry of Justice to hold a workshop in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 11-12. The workshop will be jointly organized by JSCA and Argenjus with funding from the Argentinean Federal Court Board and National Ministry of Justice. The first day will be dedicated to using the manual with statistics experts from the provinces (who should have previous experience with information gathering on the topics chosen for the event), while the second will feature a discussion with representatives from Provincial Courts on Information and Judicial Government on the basis of a document written by Binder, Riego, and Vargas.
- An agreement was made to hold a similar workshop in Venezuela in early 2004 with the Supreme Court Projects Coordinating Unit.
- A project aimed at applying the statistics instruments developed in various Central American countries (Honduras, Panama, Costa Rica, and Guatemala) was presented to the World Bank.
- We were informed that the Coding and Decoding manual is being used extensively in the Dominican Republic in the planning of the implementation of the Criminal Procedure Reform and the general judicial reform project being promoted by USAID.
- A third regional event on the organization and management of courtrooms for oral trials will be held, and the Chief Justice of Panama's Supreme Court has offered to host the event in his country.
- A repetition of the Costa Rica seminar will be held in the Dominican Republic using a workshop format.
- Agreements were reached regarding the content and nature of the seminar that JSCA will carry out in Brazil's Federal Supreme Court in November for Brazilian federal judges.
- The representatives from Electronic Interiors who participated in the seminar proposed the construction of a model virtual court at JSCA headquarters using donations from the companies that produce this type of equipment. The model courtroom would be shown to the judicial delegations that visit our offices.

The seminar had a good impact on those in attendance, which can be appreciated in the following table, which provides a summary of the evaluations of the event. The average score given by the seminar participants is shown.

<b>Elements Rated on a Scale of 1 to 10</b>	
Efforts to coordinate on the part of JSCA	<b>9</b>
Infrastructure, lunches, coffee breaks, etc.	<b>8</b>
Length of the sessions	<b>8</b>
Quality of print matter	<b>8</b>
Degree to which the concepts are applicable to your profession	<b>9</b>
Quality and performance of presenters	<b>8</b>

Overall satisfaction with the experience was rated between 8 and 9 on a scale of 1 to 10, which is very good and excellent. Some of the suggestions submitted by the participants include preparing events with more preparation time and incorporating programs that involve more interaction with

the audience. These and other comments will be implemented during the next seminar, which JSCA will plan in 2004.

## **2. To promote the cooperation and exchange of experiences among key justice system actors on a regional level.**

### **2.1 Training**

#### ***Institutional Strengthening for Criminal Procedure Reform***

The process of implementing this project officially began on 1 of August 2003 with financing from the Canadian government through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This project aims to train people from various countries in the region in order to optimize and support the processes of implementing criminal procedure reforms in the region. It will last 3 years, and we estimate that the number of individuals that benefit directly will be close to 1000.

The Plan for Implementing the Project (PIP) was generated in July and August, and an application for increasing the amount of funding was also developed. The process of elaborating the PIP included a workshop featuring the participation of the JSCA professional team and Canadian consultants from Baastel Consulting, which was held August 1-2 at JSCA's offices. The final draft of the PIP was submitted at the end of August.

Progress has also been made on the design of the courses that will be offered as part of this project. The first is an on-site course that will last for one week and be held at the end of March 2004. The second is an e-learning course, to be implemented between April and July, which led to the design of a computer platform that will be used to execute the e-learning program.

#### ***Training Activities:***

##### **A. Workshop on "Oral Litigation for the New Criminal Procedure" in Mexico City**

Mexico's Center for Economic Education and Training (CIDE) implemented a training workshop entitled "Oral Litigation for the New Criminal Procedure" in Mexico City July 14-18. The course lasted for 35 hours and was attended by 30 Mexican attorneys, as well as academics from CIDE; members of the Procuraduría General de la República and the Public Defender's Office, judges, attorneys affiliated with RENACE in Monterrey, and the Mexican Institute for Justice, among others.

This program was carried out in response to an initial petition from Fundación RENACE and developed in association with the Universidad Diego Portales Law School and CIDE. The scholars who participated were Andrés Baytelman, Mauricio Duce, Felipe Marín, and Cristián Riego. The program had two objectives: First, to generate knowledge and create the skills necessary to meet the litigation demands that the new criminal procedure model requires in an accusatory or adversarial court. The aim was to transmit these professional skills to workshop participants and train them in innovative teaching methodologies in the area of procedures. Second, to endow participants with the leadership skills that they will need to work in the area of criminal procedure reform processes in Mexico.

## B. The Training Program for Judges and Court Personnel for Implementing Ecuador's New Criminal Procedure Code

The Training Program for Judges and Court Personnel for Implementing Ecuador's New Criminal Procedure Code was initiated during this period. More than 500 prosecutors, judges, and attorneys from throughout Ecuador have participated in the program, which included two courses designed to train monitors and five modules of the general program. The courses are as follows:

### a) First Course for Educating Training Personnel:

This course was carried out in the city of Quito from July 25-29 and included a total of 40 working hours. The teachers that offered the course were Andrés Baytelman, Alberto Binder, and Mauricio Duce. The course was designed to train monitors so that they can participate in the execution of a training program for judges and prosecutors. The course mainly focused on litigation skills for oral trials and preliminary hearings. It is worth noting that the course was not only designed to train students in those skills, but aimed to give the tools they would need to train others or work as monitors for a training program. The course's main objective was to offer students a new paradigm for analyzing the Ecuadorian criminal procedure legislation and to thereby contribute to the deepening of the criminal justice system's accusatory components.

The course had a great impact on those in attendance, as can be appreciated in the following table, which presents a summary of the evaluations that were carried out at the end of the event.

<b>On a Scale from 1 to 5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Materials			1	5	36
Schedule				6	36
Respect for Schedule				1	40
Course Content			2	11	29
Exercises		1	3	11	27
Relationship to the local context		3	7	22	10
Degree to which the course will be useful for your work	1	1	5	10	25
Usefulness in terms of understanding the accusatory system			1	8	33
Group work			6	17	18

On a scale from 1 to 5, almost every participant rated the seminar as highly satisfactory with a score between 4 and 5. The teachers who offered the course also rated the event as highly satisfactory.

### b) Second Course for Educating Training Staff

This course was held on September 19 and 20 in Quito, Ecuador, and consisted of 16 working hours. There were 30 participants and three instructors: Andrés Baytelman, Alberto Binder, and Mauricio Duce. This was the second part of a course designed to train monitors so that they could participate in the execution of a training program for judges and prosecutors in Ecuador. The course was fundamentally focused on analyzing the basic parts of the research and intermediate stages of the project and resources in an oral and accusatory system. The main objective was to offer students a new paradigm for analyzing Ecuador's criminal procedure legislation and thereby contribute to the strengthening of the accusatory components of the criminal justice system.

The following are the results of the same evaluation that was presented to participants in the first course.

<b>On a scale from 1 to 5</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
1	The course contents reflect the initial objectives.		1		8	14
2	The course offers new information that is in keeping with your expectations.	1			10	12
3	The presentation quality of the instructors was adequate.				6	17
4	There was an adequate level of interaction with the participants.		1	2	14	5
5	There was enough time for each presentation.	2	3		14	4
6	There was enough time for students to participate and ask questions.	1	4		14	4
7	I feel that there is a clear possibility that I will be able to act as a facilitator during the second phase, which consists of 10 modules and begins August 21 2003.				5	18

c) Training Modules for Judges, Prosecutors, and Attorneys:

We have executed the first 5 modules for this program during this period. The average number of participants for each module was 500, distributed in 13 rooms in 10 cities in Ecuador. Each module consisted of 14 working hours including videoconferences, videos, practical exercises, and discussion workshops. The dates and content of each module are listed below:

- Module 1: August 22 and 23. Topic: Introduction to the Accusatory System and Litigation for Oral Trials. Instructor Andrés Baytelman travels to Ecuador.
- Module 2: August 29 and 30. Topic: Litigation for Oral Trials. Instructor Leonardo Moreno travels to Ecuador.
- Module 3: September 5 and 6. Topic: Litigation for Oral Trials. Leonardo Moreno offers course via videoconferences from Chile.
- Module 4: September 12 and 13. Topic: Incidents, Sentences, and Simulation of an Oral Trial. Instructors Mauricio Duce and Andrés Baytelman offer videoconferences from Chile.
- Module 5: September 25 and 26. Topic: The Research Stage, Case Selection, and Protective Measures. Instructor Rodrigo de la Barra travels to Ecuador.

***Requests for Training***

a) Course on “Reform Processes in Latin America: The Challenges of the Accusatory System”

This course was requested by the Institute for Criminal Procedure Law of Peru. It was originally planned for the month of October, but we were unable to coordinate our efforts at that time and no other date has been specific.

b) Course on “Judicial Reform for Improving Governance in Latin America”

This course will be carried out jointly with the World Bank Institute in a parallel form in six countries. Participants will discuss various topics related to reform. The course will be carried out

beginning in March 2004. We are at the final stage of negotiations for this agreement and the conditions for the course.

### ***Internships***

The pro-bono internship program received the following interns during this quarter:

- Katie Tucker (Canada), Student from Queens University de Kinston, intern from FOCAL, Canada.
- Michael Hardin (U.S.A.), Student at American University, Washington, D.C.
- María Mercedes Barrios (Guatemala), graduate of the University of the Ozarks, Arkansas, U.S.A. with a degree in Business Administration and Political Science.

Two paid internships were awarded as a result of the open competition held earlier this year, and the interns began their work on October 3 2003. They are:

- Luciana Molinari, attorney-at-law (Argentina)
- Siria Oliva, attorney-at-law (Mexico)

Lastly, the internship program for experts received two individuals this quarter:

- Alejandro Ponce de León, Executive Director of Institución RENACE ABP, of the Mexican state of Nuevo León, worked with JSCA for one month by supporting the Research Area in the design and organization of some of the activities that JSCA is coordinating for Mexico.
- Farith Simón, Executive Director of the Ecuadorian organization Fundación Esquel, worked at JSCA from September 2-5, during which time he familiarized himself with the details of the project on Gender and Judicial Reform that JSCA is developing with funding from CIDA. Farith coordinated the study, and his mission during September was to get involved with the work dynamic and organization.

## **2.2. Network Activities**

### **a) Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSO Network)**

During this trimester we have continued to work to gather information about network members in order to create a "Tool Box," a product that the members agreed to create during the annual meeting, which was held in April in Rio de Janeiro.

### ***InfoRed Newsletter***

During this trimester we developed the Issue 6, which corresponds to the months of August and September. The number of subscribers rose to 58, all of whom are active members on the Network user list. However, beginning with Issue 5, the newsletter was also sent to another list of contacts, which increased the number of people who receive it, several of whom asked about subscribing to the publication. The number of subscribers rose to 65, a 12% increase.

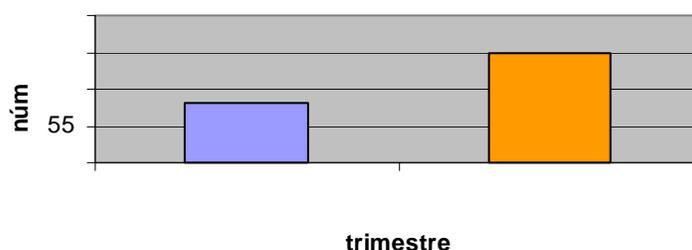
In order to increase the number of readers, we will begin to publicize it in the Nexus Newsletter and on our Website on an ongoing basis. This will begin in December, and we will evaluate the results and decide whether or not this is an effective way of increasing the number of subscribers.

In terms of the content of the InfoRed Newsletter, we will begin to develop topical issues that present information, interviews, and documents on the central topic chosen by the editors. The main topic of Issue 6 was *Judicial Independence and the Appointment of Judges*.

The response on the part of the members is fairly positive, as at least 15 of the 31 organizations have submitted information to us in order to increase contents. In addition, they have collaborated actively on the interview section, responding to questionnaires prior to the deadlines specified in the material.

Number of Organizations Registered with Red OSC

(This chart shows the number of subscribers –on the left- for April-June and July-September.)



### b) Network of Public Defender's Offices

JSCA is one of the institutions currently working on organizing conferences for the creation of the Inter-American Association of Public Defender's Offices. The Second Inter-American Conference of Public Defender's Offices will be held October 15-17 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. JSCA is participating in the organization of the event by facilitating the participation of several presenters, including JSCA's Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas, and by publicizing the conference. JSCA has a special interest in ensuring that representatives from public defender's and legal aid offices from countries in the English-speaking Caribbean participate in the event.

## 2.3. Events Organized, Sponsored, or Attended by JSCA.

### a) Events Organized by JSCA.

- The book *Justice and Civil Society* was presented on July 10 in Santiago de Chile. The event was held in the context of a research project in which JSCA participated during 2003, which was sponsored by the Ford Foundation Southern Cone Office's Human Rights and Citizenship Program. The main objective of the project was to carry out a learning exercise on the role of civil society organizations in the changes to the justice system that have occurred recently in Argentina, Colombia, Chile, and Peru.

- On July 10 JSCA organized and participated in the visit of Costa Rica's Supreme Court Chief Justice, Luis Paulino Mora, to the city of Temuco, Chile. The purpose of the visit was to allow him to learn more about the functioning and implementation of Chile's criminal procedure reform.
- The forum "The Role of the Journalist in Chile's New Criminal Justice System" was held August 18 in Talca, Chile. The forum, which was organized by JSCA's press department, was attended by journalists from the most noteworthy media sources, as well as authorities and representatives from diverse institutions in the justice sector. The goal of the event was to create a space in which to discuss topics that are important to both sectors. The most important local newspaper covered the event, and interviewed one of the experts invited to participate in the event. (See attachment)
- JSCA organized and coordinated the visit of a group of Guatemalan authorities to the city of Talca, Chile on September 1-5. The main purpose of the visit was to allow participants to observe the functioning of Chile's new criminal procedures, focusing on the preparatory stages and oral trial in order to contribute to Guatemala's justice sector modernization.

#### **b) Events Sponsored by JSCA.**

- On July 23 JSCA's Executive Director attended the seminar "Perspectives on Judicial Reform in Colombia," which was held in Bogotá. Juan Enrique Vargas spoke on "International Experiences with Governing and Managing Judicial Branches." The book "Justice and Civil Society" was presented during the same event.
- The seminar "Contractual Systems and Standards of Public Defense" was held in Santiago de Chile on September 2 and 3. The event, which was organized by the Criminal Public Defender's Office of Chile and the British Council, featured a presentation on "Basis and Evaluation of the Defense System" by JSCA Executive Director Juan Enrique Vargas and Mauricio Duce, Director of the JSCA Training Area.

#### **c) Events in which JSCA Participated.**

- The Second Regular Session of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women was held July 17 and 18 in Washington, D.C. (USA). Luciana Sánchez, JSCA Director of Programs, attended the event and presented a paper on the Gender and Criminal Procedure Reform Project.
- JSCA's Executive Director attended the seminar "Justice Reform: A Requirement for Democracy, A Social Need" in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on July 21 and 22. Juan Enrique Vargas presented a paper on organizational reforms to the justice system.
- The 3rd Conference on Justice and Development was held in Quito, Ecuador on July 24, 25 and 26 and was attended by Juan Enrique Vargas and Cristián Riego, JSCA's Academic Director. Both presented papers on the results of the follow-up study.
- JSCA Director of Programs Luciana Sánchez attended the V International Forum on Civil Society, which was held September 8 and 9 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and organized by the Civil Society of Mongolia. Sánchez gave a talk on JSCA and the CSO Network.

- Also in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, the V International Conference on New or Restored Democracy was held September 10-12. Luciana Sánchez attended the event, which was organized by the Government of Mongolia, as a delegate of Civil Society in Latin America she presented a paper on the work and activities of JSCA and the CSO Network.
- The “Conference on the Constitution of Justice Participation Networks” was held September 8 and 10 in La Paz, Bolivia. The event was attended by Fernando Santelices, JSCA Project Assistant. The network is made up of 98 Bolivian organizations and is part of the USAID-Bolivia project “Citizens Working for Justice,” which is being carried out by the Partners of the Americas institution. The objective of the project is to encourage the Bolivian population to accept and support the criminal justice system reforms being implemented in their country. JSCA presented a paper on the Network of Civil Society Organizations (CSO Network) that JSCA coordinates and on the results of the second phase of the Follow-Up Study on Criminal Procedure Reforms in the Americas. As a result, JSCA is discussing the possibility of implementing a technical assistance program for the institutions that form part of the Network. One of the most important newspapers in Bolivia covered the event and interviewed the JSCA representative who participated as a presenter.

### **3. In-depth Study of Justice Systems and Promoting Innovative Approaches in the Discussion of Judicial Reforms.**

#### **3.1 Follow-up and Support for Criminal Procedure Reforms.**

##### **First Stage of the Project:**

- New presentation of the results of the Follow-up Project in Cordoba, Argentina: The presentation of a publication that contains an analysis of the Cordoba criminal procedure system was held August 28 in the city of Cordoba as the result of the follow-up project on criminal procedure reforms that was carried out by JSCA and INECIP during 2002. The event was attended by Dr. Cristián Riego, JSCA Academic Director and 30 other individuals, including prosecutors, judges, and public defenders who work in the province. The material presented was discussed by judicial system operators, who generally agreed with the diagnoses carried out and the results of the project.

##### **Third Stage of the Project.**

This stage of the study is being implemented in Bolivia (with the Center for Justice Studies, CEJIP, a Bolivian organization that forms part of the CSO Network), Honduras (with FESPAD/CEPES, a Salvadoran organization and member of the CSO Network that implemented the second stage of the study in El Salvador), and in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina (with the Center for Legal and Social Studies, CELS, also a CSO Network member).

During the month of September, the observation stage of oral trials was concluded in three countries, and the teams involved are presently carrying out interviews and sending all gathered information to JSCA. It is planned to carry out a centralized systematization of this information,

for which purpose the form used by the teams to send collected information to JSCA has been restructured.

Supervisory visits will be carried out during the next quarter and local validations of the project results will be completed early next year. The regional seminar for presenting the results and the comparative report on the third stage are planned for April 2004 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### **3.2 Gender and Criminal Procedure Reforms.**

The research phase of this project, which is financed by the de Flora and William Hewlett Foundation and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), has ended in Chile, and the results will be presented in a seminar organized by SERNAM (Chile's National Women's Service) in order to discuss the impact of criminal procedure reforms on women's rights. The seminar will take place in October in Santiago de Chile. The results of this study will also be presented at the event that JSCA and GTZ are organizing on Gender and Justice in Viña del Mar.

The hiring process for members of local teams in Guatemala, Honduras, and Ecuador ended during September. These local experts will be charged with carrying out local studies on the impact of criminal procedure reforms on women's rights. Mr. Farith Simón, of the Fundación Esquel in Ecuador and member of the CSO Network, was hired as coordinator of this study, while Ms. Lidia Casas, a researcher at the Universidad Diego Portales and member of the CSO Network, was hired as international advisor.

The guidelines for data gathering for this study were finalized in September, and local teams are already carrying out related activities. An initial meeting of all local teams with coordinators and JSCA staff will be held during the Inter-American Seminar on Gender and Justice.

### **3.3. Women's Rights Tribunals.**

Financing from GTZ, Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Technische Zusammenarbeit, has enabled JSCA to develop a two-part project that consists of evaluating the legal and judicial effects of Women's Rights tribunals, particularly in the case of Chile. The product of this project, which consists of a guide to implementing these tribunals and publicizing the trials held, along with an evaluation of the experience of Women's Rights Tribunals in Chile, will be ready shortly.

As a result of the efforts made to carry out the gender and criminal procedure reform projects and the Women's Rights Tribunals, GTZ and JSCA are organizing an Inter-American Seminar on Gender and Justice, which will be held November 12 and 13 in Viña del Mar, Chile. The event is sponsored by USAID and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, along with the U.S. Embassy in Chile, the World Bank, and the World Bank Institute. The seminar also enjoys the sponsorship of SERNAM and the Chilean Ministry of Justice at local level, and ILANUD and the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) at regional level.

For more information on this event, please see [www.cejamericas.org](http://www.cejamericas.org) .

### **3.4. Access to Judicial Information.**

The Ford Foundation program on Citizenship and Human Rights for the Southern Cone approved a project on “Access to Judicial Information” last June. The project will be developed by JSCA and the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Information of the CIDH in Argentina, Chile, and Peru. We are currently working with local teams in Peru and Argentina to complete the information provided by the information gathering models regarding analysis of the normative system and real practices for accessing judicial information in each country. We expect to carry out supervisory visits to each of the countries by the end of this year. In Chile the study is being implemented by JSCA’s Research Area.

### **3.5. Research on Racial Discrimination in the Administration of Justice.**

Funding received from the Government of Brazil has allowed JSCA to launch a study of institutionalized racial discrimination in the administration of justice. The study is currently underway in Brazil, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic, and we hope to have the results by March 2004 so that JSCA can disseminate them through its publications and Website.